

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SCUL SG NI
SUBJECT: SENEGALESE PARTICIPATION IN SECOND WORLD BLACK ARTS
FESTIVAL (FESTAC)

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL SENDING LARGE DELEGATION TO LAGOS BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL, BUT SENEGALESE MINISTER OF CULTURE HAS INDIRECTLY CRITICIZED ALLEGED "EXOTICISM" OF SOME ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR FESTIVAL, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE NON-"MONEY-GRABBING" STAYC PERSONNEL, AND ASSOCIATED SENEGAL WITH CALL BY WOLE SOYINKA TO RESTORE FESTIVAL'S TRUE PHILOSOPHY.
END SUMMARYJM

2. IN STATEMENTS DURING PQST WEEK, SENEGALESE MINISTER OF CULTURE ALIOQRE SENE REAFFIRMED THAT SENEGAL WOULD ATTEND FESTAC SO THAT LAGOS FESTIVAL WOULD "TRIUMPH" IN DEFENDING AND ILLUSTRATING BLAVH VALUES. HE TOLD PRESS SENEGAL WOULD PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN FESTAC COLLOQUIUM ON BLACK CIVILIZATION AND EDUCATION (WHERE SOME 15 SENEGALESE PROFESSORS PLAN TO PRESENT AT LEAST NINE PAPERS). IN TELEVISED JANUARY 2 STATEMENT SENE SAID SZGEGAL WAS "SYMPATHETIC" TO RECENT MESSAGE FROM NIGERIAN PLAYWRIGHT WOLE SOYINKA ON BEHALF OF NEGRO-AFRICAN WRITERS DRAWING ATTENTION TO "BLACK STATES WHICH OPPRESS INTELLECTUALS AND TO THE NECESSITY TO RESTORE THE TRUE PHILOSOPHY OF THE FESTAC AND COLLOQUIUM."

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3. PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS REPORTEDLY MADE AVAILABLE HIS NEW BOEING 727 JET TO FERRY LARGE SENEGALESE DELEGATION TO LAGOS IN SEPARATE TRIPS BEGINNING JANUARY 10. DETAILS OF SENEGALESE PARTICIPATION ARE CONTAINED SEPTTEL.

4. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN JAN. 10 GOVERNMENT-OWNED LE SOLEIL, SENE DECLARED THAT SENEGAL HAD REJECTED EVENTS WHICH SMACKED "MORE OF EFLTICISM THAN CQZTURE OR WERE SUSCEPTIBLE TO UNLEASHING POLITICIANS' CONTROVERSIES." EXAMPLES CITED INCLUDED FESTIVAL QUEEN AND CHIEFTANCY. ARTICLE QUOTES SENE AS SAYING, "EVERYTHING CANNOT SUCCEED 100 PERCENT, BUT WE THINK THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FURNISH THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND FURNISH AN EFFICIENT HUMAN STAFF HAVING FAITH IN THE ENTERPRISE--MEN CAPABLE OF GOING BEYOND ALL MONEY-GRABBING CONSIDERATIONS."

5. COMMENT: SENE'S REMARKS REFLECT SENEGAL'S CONTINUING LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH IDEA OF CHERISHED BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL TAKING PLACE UNDER AUSPICES OF CURRENT NIGERIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP WITH WHICH SENEGALESE FEEL LITTLE RAPPORT (DESPITE FACT THAT LAGOS VENUE FOR SECOND BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL WAS ENVISAGED BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR SINCE BEFORE FIRST FESTIVAL IN DAKAR). EMBASSY WOULD BE U INTERESTED IN ANY DETAILS AVAILADE ELSEWHERE ON SOYINKA REMARKS WITH WHICH SENE ALIGNED SENEGAL.
AGGREY

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